

Amendments to the Claims

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) Device for vertebral column support, comprising at least one connecting sliding piece for connecting an anchoring screw to a fastening rod, the structure of the connecting sliding piece being elongate in a general lengthwise direction, the connecting sliding piece comprising a first hole conformed for the passage and fixing of the anchoring screw, the connecting sliding piece comprising receiving means adapted to receive a portion of the fastening rod oriented along a transverse axis perpendicular to the lengthwise direction and to receive clamping means for selectively clamping the fastening rod in said receiving means or releasing it therefrom, wherein:

the connecting sliding piece comprises two points conformed to penetrate into the bone of a vertebra to retain the connecting sliding piece on the vertebra,

all of the [[two]] points are disposed in the region of the sliding piece including the receiving means, on the interior face of the sliding piece and opposite the receiving means, which are on the exterior face of the connecting sliding piece,

the two points are parallel to and offset from each other in the direction of the transverse axis of the connecting sliding piece, parallel to the fastening rod,

the fastening rod is engaged in the end of the receiving means opposite the anchoring screw in the general lengthwise direction.

12. (Previously presented) Device according to Claim 11, wherein each point is a generally triangular flat structure in a plane perpendicular to the direction of the transverse axis.

13. (Previously presented) Device according to Claim 12, wherein each point comprises retaining teeth on the two sides of the triangle.

14. (Previously presented) Device according to Claim 11, wherein the interior face of the sliding connecting piece adapted to bear against the vertebra is concave and substantially cylindrical with a circular profile.

15. (Currently amended) Device for vertebral column support, comprising at least one connecting sliding piece for connecting an anchoring screw to a fastening rod, the structure of the connecting sliding piece being elongate in a general lengthwise direction, the connecting sliding piece comprising a first hole conformed for the passage and fixing of the anchoring screw, the connecting sliding piece comprising receiving means adapted to receive a portion of the fastening rod oriented along a transverse axis perpendicular to the lengthwise direction and to receive clamping means for selectively clamping the fastening rod in said receiving means or releasing it therefrom, wherein:

the connecting sliding piece comprises two points conformed to penetrate into the bone of a vertebra to retain the connecting sliding piece on the vertebra,

the two points are disposed in the region of the sliding piece including the receiving means, on the interior face of the sliding piece

and opposite the receiving means, which are on the exterior face of the connecting sliding piece,

the two points are parallel to and offset from each other in the direction of the transverse axis of the connecting sliding piece, parallel to the fastening rod,

the fastening rod is engaged in the end of the receiving means opposite the anchoring screw in the general lengthwise direction,

wherein the interior face of the sliding connecting piece adapted to bear against the vertebra is concave and substantially cylindrical with a circular profile, and

*Device according to Claim 14,* wherein each point extends in a substantially radial direction of the cylindrical interior face of the connecting sliding piece and the first hole has an axis that is substantially radial relative to the cylindrical interior face of the connecting sliding piece so that the points and the anchoring screw converge toward the vertebra.

16. (Currently amended) Device for vertebral column support, comprising at least one connecting sliding piece for connecting an anchoring screw to a fastening rod, the structure of the connecting sliding piece being elongate in a general lengthwise direction, the connecting sliding piece comprising a first hole conformed for the passage and fixing of the anchoring screw, the connecting sliding piece comprising receiving means adapted to receive a portion of the fastening rod oriented along a transverse axis perpendicular to the lengthwise direction and to receive clamping means for selectively clamping the fastening rod in said receiving means or releasing it therefrom, wherein:

the connecting sliding piece comprises two points conformed to

penetrate into the bone of a vertebra to retain the connecting sliding piece on the vertebra,

the two points are disposed in the region of the sliding piece including the receiving means, on the interior face of the sliding piece and opposite the receiving means, which are on the exterior face of the connecting sliding piece,

the two points are parallel to and offset from each other in the direction of the transverse axis of the connecting sliding piece, parallel to the fastening rod,

the fastening rod is engaged in the end of the receiving means opposite the anchoring screw in the general lengthwise direction,

*Device according to Claim 11/* wherein the connecting sliding piece comprises:

a transverse exterior groove,

a cylindrical bearing surface forming a first edge of the transverse groove opposite the first hole and conformed to receive a portion of the fastening rod,

a clamping hole separate from the first hole in the bottom of the transverse groove separated from the first edge of the transverse groove by a distance greater than the diameter of the fastening rod,

an oblique bearing surface constituting the second edge of the transverse groove and inclined to the axis of the clamping hole.

17. (Previously presented) Device according to Claim 16, wherein the clamping means comprise:

a tightening screw with a head and a threaded shank adapted to be screwed into the clamping hole,

a jumper adapted to be engaged in the manner of a wedge in the transverse groove between the oblique bearing surface and the fastening rod and adapted to be pushed toward the bottom of the transverse groove by the tightening screw with a bearing face in sliding bearing engagement with the oblique portion and with an opposite thrust face bearing on the fastening rod.

18. (Previously presented) Device according to Claim 17, wherein the jumper is pierced by a jumper hole through which is passed the shank of the tightening screw whose head bears on the external face of the jumper to push it toward the bottom of the transverse groove.

19. (Previously presented) Device according to Claim 17, wherein the head of the tightening screw includes a polygonal contour axial hole for turning it.

20. (Previously presented) Device according to Claim 17, wherein the thrust face of the jumper has a lower portion oriented generally toward the bottom of the transverse groove to bear against the fastening rod and an upper portion open upward to facilitate lateral engagement of the fastening rod.